(b) if so, the number of items contained in the said reservation list in the March, 1998; and

(c) the number of said items at the end of March, 2001 alongwith the reasons making curtailment in the said list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Out of 821 items reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector as on 31.3.1998, 10 items have been dereserved as indicated below:

1998	9
1999-2000	Nil
2000-2001	1

(c) At the end of March, 2001 there are 811 items reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector. The reasons for dereservation of these items are to encourage technology upgradation for enhancement of productivity and competitiveness, export promotion, introduction of innovative marketing strategies, quality improvement and on ground of safety, health and hygiene.

SSI in Gujarat after Earthquake

†4557. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minsiter of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small industries as well as cottage industries of Gujarat have suffered heavy losses due to recent severe earthquake;

(b) if so, the losses incurred in this regard; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government for the development of affected Small Scale Industries in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information received from Government of Gujarat, 5247 Small Scale Industries (including salt units) and 34358 Cottage and Rural Industries have suffered damages in the recent earthquake. The losses incurred by these industries are Rs. 243.57 crores and Rs. 77.18 crores respectively.

(c) A special relief package of measures for persons/business affected by the earthquake in Gujarat has been announced by the Reserve Bank of India on 12th February, 2001. This includes freezing of recoveries and extension of new loans on liberal terms for SSI in the affected areas. The Government of Gujarat has also announced a package for rehabilitatiton of earthquake affected industrial units including Small Scale and Cottage Industries on 25.2.2001. The package provides for SSI sector, the need based bankable loan assistance for two years, recovery of electricity charges on actual consumption basis for one year, exemption from stamp duty and assistance for repair of damaged building, plant and machinery. For Cottage Industries, the package provides assistance for tool-kits for artisans, local self-employed and handicraft artisans, assistance for temporary sheds for artisans, providing infrastructure facilities in Rural Industry Development Centres and setting up of Handloom and Handicraft Parks.

Development of SSI

†4558. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of cottage and small scale industries located in various States of the country; and

(b) the measures taken by Government for the development and promotion of small scale industries in the country as compared to the last three years?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.